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REVIEWS.

Synkretismus. Ein Beitrag zur germanischen Kasuslehre von B. Delbrück. Strassburg. Verlag von Karl J. Trübner, 1907. Pp. vii + 272.

Professor Delbrück desires this work along with his treatise on the Germanic Optative to be considered as preliminary chapters to a comparative syntax of the Germanic dialects. The present work is a careful and valuable investigation into the meaning and force of the different cases of nouns in prehistoric Germanic and their subsequent individual development, or on the other hand, the history of the merging of several case forms into one. The merging of the ablative, instrumental, and locative into the dative is explained at some length and gives rise to the title of the book.

As differing from his previous publications and the position assumed by Brugmann in his "Kurze vergleichende Grammatik" Professor Delbrück now regards the Germanic separative genitive, not as the modern representative of the older ablative, but as a development out of the meanings of the genitive itself. This point he illustrates very clearly by examples and everywhere throughout the work there is a profusion of luminous illustrations which make the book very interesting indeed. Of course, a number of these developments cannot be established with absolute certainty, but to students of syntax the presentation of the facts and a plausible explanation of such important phenomena will always claim the closest attention, for there is an irresistible desire to peer into the darkness which surrounds the origin of the case forms.

On page 175 Professor Delbrück treats of the use of the instrumental case as an object. For purposes of illustration he uses the modern prepositional construction with *mit* to make clear the force of the instrumental: *Ich werfe mit einem Stein*. He regards this construction as practically of the same force as the accusative construction *Ich werfe einen Stein*, and adds that in the competition of these two constructions the instrumental has lost its living force and has become practically dead. The reviewer believes this latter

statement to be true for English rather than for German, as he has illustrated in his German Grammar, page 525 (e). Since the publication of his Grammar he has collected a number of additional examples : mit den Augen blinzeln, *to wink one's eyes*, mit der Peitsche knallen, *to crack one's whip*, mit den Zähnen knirschen, *to gnash one's teeth*, mit dem Kopfe nicken, *to nod one's head*, mit den Flügeln schlagen, *to flap its wings*, mit den Lippen schmatzen, *to smack one's lips*, mit dem Fusse stampfen, *to stamp one's foot*, mit den Händen winken, *to wave one's hands*, mit den Schultern zucken, *to shrug one's shoulders*, etc. After years of observation it seems to the reviewer that the instrumental construction is in German a marked feature of the language which invariably attracts the attention of an English-speaking person. A native German often provokes the smile of a native Englishman or American by the too liberal use of this instrumental construction in talking English. It seems indeed true that this old construction, once common in different Germanic languages, has lost but little of its former usefulness in German. While in German it still competes with the accusative construction, the latter is far more common in English, altho in some expressions the prepositional construction is still quite natural, as in *He stamped with his foot*, or *He stamped his foot*.

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Geschichte der Inszenierung im geistlichen Schauspiele des Mittelalters in Frankreich. Von Dr. Gustave Cohen. Vermehrte und verbesserte Ausgabe. Ins Deutsche übertragen von Dr. Constantin Bauer. Leipzig, 1907, (256 pp. 12 M.

The French version of this work, under the title *Histoire de la mise en scène dans le théâtre religieux français du moyen âge*, appeared in 1906 in the "*Mémoires couronnés de l'Académie de Belgique*" and was also published separately in a limited edition (Paris, Champion, 1906). The fact that this French edition was soon exhausted has led to this new edition in German